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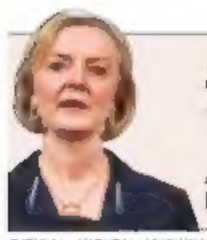
PENNY MORDAUNT

RISHI SUNAK



SUNAK IS BOOKIE'S FAVOURITE TO REPLACE TRUSS AS U.K. PM

As Tory rebels look for ways to oust British Prime Minister Liz Truss, pollster bets on Rishi Sunak to make a comeback

PRESSURE MOUNTS ON 1922 COMMITEE

Truss, elected last month, cannot face a trust vote for one year, as per the rules. But rebels are mounting pressure on the 1922 Committee, which holds Tory elections, to amend the rulebook. Up to 100 letters expressing no trust in Truss have been sent to the committee. Its chairman said 178 of 356 Tory lawmakers must request a rule change for it to be considered

SUNAK-MORDAUNT JOINT TICKET FLOATED

- Oddschecker showed Sunak as the favourite to replace Truss. However, he still faces opposition from Boris Johnson's loyalists, who blame him for their leader's fall from power
- A unity ticket involving Sunak and Penny Mordaunt, who came third in the leadership race, is also being considered | P9

October 31

WHEN JEREMY HUNT WILL PRESENT MEDIUM-TERM BUDGET

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Congress ballot paper amended for today's polls

Delegates told to put tick mark, after Tharoor says writing '1' may create needless confusion

CYNTHIA CHANDRAN @ T'Puram

A day before the much-awaited Congress presidential elections, Kerala MP Shashi Tharoor won a small battle by getting an important change made in the ballot paper.

Central election authority Madhusudan Mistry saw merit in Tharoor's point that the directive asking voters to write '1' against the name of their chosen candidate was flawed as it could be mistaken as 'candidate number 1' on the ballot paper, who is Mallikarjun Kharge.

On Saturday, Mistry's missive to PCC members said they need to mark '1' on the ballot paper against their choice of candidate, fold the ballot paper and put it into the ballot box.

Following Tharoor's intervention, Mistry's office amended the directive and informed delegates that they need to place a tick mark in the box near the name of their candidate, instead of writing '1'. Any other symbol or number would make the vote invalid.

Tharoor shared the development through a tweet: "Breaking News: the @incIndia Election Authority has changed the requirement for a vote from writing '1' against the preferred candidate's name to a tick mark. Delegates please note a tick mark is needed in the box next to my name!"

Mistry justified the earlier directive citing the Congress constitution for writing '1' before the preferred choice. However, Tharoor's team said that it is required only in cases when there are two or more candidates and preferences have to be made.

Tharoor also released a video message in both Hindi and English seeking support for the last time before polls on Monday. He also emphasised it was a secret ballot and urged them to come forward bravely and vote for 'change.' Meanwhile, Kharge pushed back at charges that he would be tied to the Gandhi family, saying there was no shame in taking the advice and support from them in running the party if he becomes its president.

Shashi Tharoor drinks tea at a roadside stall in Lucknow on Sunday | PTI

Rahul to vote in Karnataka's Bellary

Rahul Gandhi, who is currently in Karnataka as part of his Bharat Jodo Yatra, will cast his vote in the presidential polls at Sanganakallu in Bellary

Summoned Sisodia to appear before CBI today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

WITH the CBI summoning Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia to appear before it on Monday for questioning over his alleged role in the excise policy rip-off, his Aam Aadmi Party claimed he would be arrested to stymie its gains in poll-bound Gujarat.

This is the first time the CBI has summoned Sisodia, who is the primary accused in the case related to the now-scrapped liquor policy, for questioning.

Sisodia took to Twitter to say he will visit the CBI headquarters at 11 am and provide full cooperation to the probe. "The CBI raided my house for 14 hours, but nothing came out of it. They searched my bank locker and found nothing. They did not find anything in my village. Now they have called me to CBI Headquarters at 11 am tomorrow. I will go and give my full cooperation," he tweeted in Hindi.

The AAP claimed the BJP is rattled with its rise in Gujarat where it is gearing up to give a tough fight. "To shift the agenda from the growing anti-incumbency against its 27-year-long tenure, the BJP now wants to dent the AAP's poll run, which is why they have conspired to have Manish Sisodia arrest at the CBI headquarters tomorrow," party leader Atishi alleged.

Minutes after Sisodia's tweet, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal rallied around him and the other jailed former Delhi minister Satyendar Jain, likening them to freedom fighter Bhagat Singh. "Jail bars and hanging noose could not deter Bhagat Singh's lofty intentions. This is the second fight for freedom. Manish and Satyendra are today's Bhagat Singh," Kejriwal claimed.

The CBI FIR against Sisodia and 14 others mentions various IPC sections, including 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 477A (falsification of records), and section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, which deals with taking undue advantage to influence a public servant by corrupt or illegal means.

COUPLE OF ARRESTS IN EXCISE SCAM SO FAR

The CBI has already questioned Sameer Mahendru, owner of IndoSpirits, Amit Arora, director of Buddy Retail, and India Ahead News managing director Mootha Gautam. It has also arrested Vijay Nair, former CEO of Only Much Louder, and businessman Abhishek Boinpally

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MBBS TEXTBOOKS IN HINDI

Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday termed the beginning of imparting medical education in Hindi in MP as "historic" | P7

ACTION THRILLER

FROM THE WORLD CUP DOWN UNDER TO FOOTBALL IN EUROPE, THERE WAS PLENTY OF DRAMA IN THE WORLD OF SPORTS ON SUNDAY. HERE'S A LOOK AT WHAT UNFOLDED...

REAL MADRID TAKE EL CLASICO HONOURS

Given how Barcelona played in the Champions League mid-week, their visit to Santiago Bernabeu was always going to be a challenge. And Real Madrid ensured the El Clasico was one to forget for Xavi's boys as the defending champions strolled to a 3-1 victory. Karim Benzema (left), opened the scoring in the 12th minute before Fede Valverde (right) gave the hosts a 2-0 lead at the break. Ferran Torres pulled one back for the Catalans in the 83rd minute to set up an exciting finish, but Rodrygo's penalty in stoppage time sealed the deal for Madrid as they went top of La Liga | P11

LIVERPOOL HAND CITY FIRST DEFEAT

The Premier League is never short on drama. At Elland Road, Arsenal saw off a spirited challenge from Leeds (1-0) with help from VAR to retain top spot in the table. Later, Liverpool ensured Manchester City couldn't breach Anfield. In a tense affair, which saw Reds manager Jurgen Klopp was sent off, Mo Salah's 76-minute strike gave the hosts (1-0) their third win in the league

NAMIBIA SHOCK SRI LANKA IN T20 WORLD CUP OPENER

The T20 World Cup in Australia got off to a dramatic start on Sunday. In the opening match at Geelong, Associate nation Namibia stunned Sri Lanka, who won the Asia Cup last month. Jan Frylinck was the star for Namibia, who are featuring in a T20 WC for only the second time ever, as he scored 44 runs and picked up two wickets. Set 164 for win, Sri Lanka were bundled out for 108. In another match, the Netherlands posted a thrilling three-wicket win over the UAE with 1 ball remaining

NEGATIVE ADS CAST SHADOW OVER GIM

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

As Karnataka rolls out the red carpet for the Global Investors' Meet to be held from November 2 to 4, a blitzkrieg of negative social media posts and advertisements has shaken the international investment world. An advertisement in a foreign daily attempts to warn investors, claiming that the political and business climate in the country is not conducive. "Modi government officials have decimated the rule of law by weaponizing the institutions of the state to settle scores with political and business rivals, making India unsafe for investors. If you are an investor in India you might be next.... Under Modi, a decline in the rule of law has made India a dangerous place to invest," says a post.

It comes at a time when many industrialists and head honchos are firming up travel plans to Bengaluru. As experts deliberate on the fallout, Major Industries Minister N Murugesh Nirani claimed it will not impact investor sentiment.

Nirani told TNIE, "We have done our homework. If investors are not interested, why would they have met us in the first place? We've got good feedback from our potential investors. I'm confident that this will not hit investments in Karnataka."

JDS leader and former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy said, "Things are worse here than what social media posts claim. The recent floods in Mahadevapura and Peenya Industrial Area, where many lost fortunes, are only an indicator of how bad things are. Corporates have little respect for the present government." P4

CBI chargesheets DHFL ex-CMD and 74 others in ₹34,000 cr scam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Central Bureau of Investigation has filed a chargesheet against Kapil Wadhawan, the former CMD of the Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL) and 74 others in connection with a ₹34,000-bank-fraud case. A consortium of 17 Indian banks led by the Union Bank of India was defrauded by DHFL.

In the chargesheet filed on Saturday, the CBI named Wadhawan, his brother and former director Dheeraj Wadhawan,

then CEO Harshil Mehta and former CFO Krieshan Groverr as the key accused. The agency also named 13 others and 57 companies that were allegedly used to divert funds.

In June, the CBI registered a case on a complaint filed by the Union Bank of India, Industrial Finance Branch, Mumbai against the directors of DHFL, private individuals and unknown government officials. It was alleged that the accused cheated the consortium, which had extended credit facilities to DHFL to the tune of ₹42,871 crore between 2010 and 2018.

The accused siphoned out ₹34,615 crore using the credit facilities extended to DHFL as loans by producing fake documents and round-tripped funds through 57 companies to create personal assets for the Wadhawans, the CBI said.

Cruise-like boats to ferry tourists in Sharavathi

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

TO boost tourism, reduce carbon footprint in the pristine Western Ghats and address religious sentiments of the people, for the first time in the state, officials from Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) and Jungle Lodges and Resorts (JLR) are introducing cruise-like large boats in the Sharavathi river.

The boats will ferry people from the Talkale dam backwaters to Vadanbail island, allowing visitors to enjoy the beauty of the island and also visit the shrine of Goddess Vadanbail, a popular Jain deity.

At present, tourists have to travel nearly 40 km by road to reach the island. Once the boats are introduced, the travel time will be reduced and vehicular movement and related pollution will be cut down. Vehicles may be completely banned, if need be, officials said. The plan has got the thumbs-up from local residents, officials and panchayat members.

"We can start the operation once KPCL finalises the tenders. Since the dam has water throughout the year, operating the boats will not be a problem. Jetties of can carry 16-40 people. Onboard facilities will also be provided," JLR Managing Director Manoj Kumar told TNIE. P5

Two washed away in tank

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Tumakuru

TWO farmers were washed away in the flood waters near the sluice outlet of an overflowing tank at Kalluru near Kadaba in Gubbi taluk on Saturday night.

The victims were identified as Hanumanthaiah (40) and Nataraju (36) who were returning home after visiting their farms.

They were riding a motorbike when they slipped and fell. They went to the water flowing from the tank to wash their clothes, when one of them got sucked into the stream. The other farmer tried to rescue his friend, when he too fell into the waters and got washed away. NDRF and fire force personnel launched an operation to search for the two farmers, said Gubbi Circle Inspector Nadaf.

One side of the stretch from Bashyam Circle towards Yeshwanthpur was dosed as the Sankey Tank Road caved in, in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Van-bus crash kills nine

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hassan

Nine people, including four women and four children, were killed on the spot and ten others injured after a van collided with a KSRTC bus near Chaluvanahalli in Banavara police limits on Sunday morning.

Two of the injured are critical. The deceased were from Hallikeri and Salapura villages of Arsikere taluk and all of them were in the van. Fourteen relatives from the two villages were returning from Dharmasthala and Subramanya.

SP Hariram Shankar said rash driving by both drivers caused the accident. The van first collided with the bus and crashed into a milk tanker.

The deceased are Lilavati (49), Chaitra (33), Vandana(20), Bharati(50), Dimpy(12), Tanmai (10), Samarati (11), Dhruva (2) and Doddaiah (50). District minister K Gopalaiah announced a compensation Rs 2 lakh to the families of each deceased.

ENCROACHMENT

OMG! Lord Hanuman cross as Rlys sends eviction notice

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

REMEMBER the 2012 Bollywood movie *Oh My God!* starring Paresh Rawal and Akshay Kumar that was inspired from the Australian film *The Man Who Sued God?* Well, Lord Hanuman wasn't sued but He recently got an eviction notice from Dhanbad Rail Division assistant engineer Anand Kumar Pandey for squatting in the Bekar Bandh area that belongs to the railways. He was warned of legal action if his temple was not removed within 10 days. The notice pasted on the temple wall had Lord Hanuman's name as the encroacher.

Pandey soon realised he had needlessly messed up with the powerful deity as he was transferred shortly thereafter to the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Rail Division in UP. The Dhanbad railway tried to explain it off as a routine transfer, as four other engineers, too, were shifted to other locations at the same time. However, they admitted the eviction notice to the deity was a mistake.

Pandey had issued eviction notices 27 other households living in makeshift accommodations around the temple as well. Matters came to a head when locals spotted the notice to Hanumanji pasted on the temple wall and launched a protest. Railway officials immediately realised their mistake and removed it.

"It was a human error. There was no intention to hurt people's sentiments. We were only trying to get the land vacated from encroachers," officials said on condition of anonymity.

Xi talks tough as party meet opens

The Chinese Communist Party on Sunday began its week-long Congress amid expectation of President Xi Jinping getting a record third term as its leader. A look

In his address, Xi defended the zero-Covid policy, saying he put people and their lives first while dealing with it

The Chinese president condemned external forces for interfering in self-ruled Taiwan, which China claims as its own. He warned that China will not renounce the use of force to unify Taiwan with the mainland, if needed

He said Chinese military will intensify troop training and combat preparedness to fight and win wars besides creating a strong system of strategic deterrence

Xi told the delegates that his long-running crackdown on corruption had put an end to serious latent dangers within the Communist Party, military and the state | P9